Export of inferior quality rice

451. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India had given concession to the rice exporters in 2001, 2002 and 2003 assuming that the rice was of inferior quality;

(b) if so, the amount of losses suffered by the Food Corporation of India on account of extending such concession in each of the above years; and

(c) the exporters to whom such concession was given in each of the said year alongwith the amount of concession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) An inquiry was instituted taking note of the reports appearing in the press regarding alleged irregularities in the issue of rice to certain exporters.

It is not possible to immediately assess the losses, if any.

Export of rice by private parties

452. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Croporation of India gave undue benefit of Rs. 455 crores in years 2001 and 2002 to private parties in the sale of rice for export by way of excess allowance for "brokens", without consulting the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed for the alleged "irregular, injudicious and unwarranted" concessions as reportedly commented upon by the Minister itself;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the follow up action taken and its present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (e) An inquiry had been instituted taking note of the reports appearing in the press regarding alleged irregularities in the issue of rice to certain exporters. It is not possible to immediately assess the losses or take action against the guilty, if any.

The concession given to rice exporters for 'Brokens allowance' had been withdrawn with effect from 1st October, 2002.

Stock of foodgrains with FCI

453. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the stock of rice and wheat with FCI at present;

(b) what is the capacity of FCI godowns; and

(c) the stock of rice and wheat kept in FCI godown that has been spoiulted during the last two years, value-wise, quantity-wise, year-wise and commodity-wise figures thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The stock of Rice and Wheat in the Central Pool as on 1.7.2003 was 109.74 lakh tonnes and 241.94 lakh tonnes respectively.

(b) Total storage capacity (owned & hired/covered & covered and Plinth (CAP) available with Food Corporation of India (FCI) as on 31.5.2003 was 308.18 lakh tonnes.

(c) The value-wise, quantity-wise, year-wise and commodity-wise figures about damaged stock for the last two years are as follows:-

(Stock figures in lakh tonnes)*

	2001-2002	Value (Rs.)
Wheat	0.41	2,942.62 lakh
Rice	0.74	7,055.27 lakh
	2002-2003	Value (Rs.)
Wheat	0.28	2014.96 lakh
Rice	1.05	9959.49 lakh

*Provisional and unaudited.